

6th July, 1901, by Mr. A. S. Meek. About ten specimens examined.

This fine rat is widely different from any species described as a *Uromys*, and could only be confounded with Ramsay's "*Mus salamonis*"*, which might be also a member of the present genus. But the colour of *salamonis* is said to be "light ashy grey," and the skull, though in general very like that of *U. sapientis*, has a distinctly projecting anterior zygoma-root.

LXXI.—The "Cahowe" of the Bermudas.

To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of
Natural History.'

GENTLEMEN,—My attention has only just been called to an article in your January number on the cahowe, a supposed extinct bird of Bermuda. The writer categorically asserts that it was not a shearwater and that it is extinct. I venture, on the contrary, to maintain that it is a shearwater and was certainly not extinct a few years ago. I was resident in Bermuda for three years, and the cahowe was well known by that name to the fishermen. Before I obtained the bird I mentioned it to Sir W. Jardine ('Contrib. to Ornithology,' 1849, p. 79). I, with the late Sir J. Campbell Orde, afterwards obtained both birds and eggs near Cooper's Island; so did Col. H. M. Drummond-Hay, Lieut.-Col. Wedderburn, and afterwards Capt. Trotter, of Dereham Park, and (in 1874) Capt. Reid, R.E. Neither Mr. Hurdis nor Mr. Jones ('Naturalist in Bermuda,' p. 94) ever doubted for a moment that the cahowe was *Puffinus obscurus* (Gm.), with which Mr. Salvin rightly identifies *P. Auduboni*. The ten reasons assigned by Mr. Verrill for the cahowe not being a shearwater are most of them proofs that it is—*e. g.*, that it breeds in holes or burrows, that it only visits the island in the breeding-season, that it is nocturnal and rarely seen in the daytime, that it lays white eggs (as do all the petrel tribe, but none of the auks), that it has a sharp bite, &c. &c. &c. Then he informs us that "the shearwaters . . . are inedible." On the contrary, the young in many places are highly esteemed for food. Willoughby, 250 years ago, described how they were captured and sold for food in the Isle of Man. Numbers are caught

* P. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vii. p. 43 (1882).

every season now on the Isle of Graciosa, north of Lanzarote, Canaries. The mutton-bird (*Puffinus brevicauda*) used to be taken in thousands off the coast of Australia, as described by R. Elwes ('Ibis,' 1859, p. 397) and by Gould. But I need not occupy your space by further instances. The characteristics of the cahowe, as given by Mr. Verrill, exactly fit the shearwater, and can fit no other bird. In fact, he has discovered a veritable mare's nest.

Yours obediently,

H. B. TRISTRAM.

Durham,
21st April, 1902.

LXXII.—*Descriptions of Two new Species of Bactrododema (Phasmidæ) in the Collection of the British Museum (Natural History).* By W. F. KIRBY, F.L.S., F.E.S.

IN the first two parts of Mr. Distant's 'Insecta Transvaaliensia' I have described and figured a new species of *Bactrododema* under the name of *B. aculiferum* (p. 47, pl. ii. figs. 1, 1a-c, 2, 2a). I now describe two more closely allied species from single male specimens. There are probably a considerable number of curious Phasmidæ belonging to the subfamily *Palophinæ* inhabiting Africa; but they are so well concealed by their resemblance to dried sticks when their wings are closed, that they are generally only observed by some accident, and sent home singly. The sexes are so dissimilar that it is useless to attempt to unite them, unless insects which are possibly or probably sexes are received in the same collection, or unless there is some more definite evidence pointing to their possibly belonging to the same species.

1. *Bactrododema Lugardi*, sp. n.

Male.—Reddish brown, dusted with grey; antennæ very pilose, reddish, the joints spotted with blackish; ocelliferous tubercles surmounted by reddish spines, the basal portion shorter and stouter than the terminal portion, which is very slender and bent backwards at an acute angle. Pronotum irregularly and longitudinally striated, with a slender black line on each side. Abdomen reddish, indistinctly carinated, unarmed. Legs unarmed, pubescent; front legs grey, indistinctly spotted with darker; four hind legs reddish. All the tarsi brownish, the basal joint longer than the succeeding ones together, and on the front legs strongly carinated and slightly raised; indistinctly carinated and hardly raised on